

Congressman Jesse Jackson, Jr., today said, "I am deeply saddened to learn of the death of the First Lady of the Civil Rights Movement, Coretta Scott King. I knew and admired Mrs. King for her commitment to her husband and family, as well as to the civil rights movement and the philosophy of non-violence as a way of bringing peace and justice to our world.

"A promising singer as a young woman, Coretta Scott King, who lived twice as long as her husband, became a human rights leader in her own right. With Dr. King traveling extensively, she also assumed the primary responsibility for the daily chores of raising a family - but she was often with Dr. King on his marches and protests for equality, justice and peace. Dr. King counted Mrs. King among his key advisors.

"Mrs. King's commitment to human rights and peace made her a strong opponent of the death penalty, which also led her to oppose the invasion of Iraq in 2003. She was an active advocate for [women's rights](#) , equality before the law for [lesbians and gays](#) , and she worked tirelessly to prevent HIV/AIDS.

"I will keep the King family children - Yolanda, Marty, Dexter and Bernice - in my prayers," Jackson concluded.